

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR
CDBG PROGRAM
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 2, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Richard DeJesus, Co-chair; Jack Banta, Co-Chair; Council President
Thomas McCarthy; Susan Brannelly, Alfredo Castillo

STAFF: Tyler Fairbairn, Acting Deputy Director, Alanna Kabel,
Assistant CAO

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member DeJesus called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

**59-13 Consolidated Plan 2013-2018 PY 40 Annual Action Plan.
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).
Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant Program (HESG).
HOME Investment Partnership Program.
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA).**

Mr. Fairbairn explained that the Special Committee was created to review the CDBG funding. He reviewed the four categories and explained that the Citizens' Union made their recommendations with the understanding that the City had received the same amount they had received last year. The staff recommendations were calculated with the actual grant allocation.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Public Service

Council Member Brannelly asked Mr. Fairbairn what the previous figures had been. Mr. Fairbairn gave the figures. Ms. Kabel explained that there was a formula for allocating funding and that more municipalities have qualified so there is less funding available.

Mr. Fairbairn said that the point was to help the low and moderate income. He listed the various things that could be done with the funding, including construction, demolition and other things. Kathy explained that the groups have at least 51% of the low or moderate income. She then reviewed the various groups and the types of programming that they run.

Council President McCarthy suggested that Family Service Woodfield (FSW) Work Skill Training be reduced from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

Council Member DeJesus suggested reducing the UConn Cooperative CES: 4H Gardens (PF) and UConn Cooperative CES: 4H Gardens (Curiale) from \$5,000 to \$0.

Council Member Brannelly suggested increasing GBAPP by \$1,500 for a total of \$8,500.00.

Council President McCarthy suggested decreasing Liberation Drug Treatment Advocates from \$5,000 to \$0.

Council President McCarthy suggested increasing the VIP College Prep from \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Council Member Banta suggested increasing Hall Neighborhood House: Ella Jackson Senior Center from \$21,341 to \$22,841.

Council Member Castillo suggested reducing the Child & Family Guidance: SIHRY from \$5,000 to \$0.

Council Member Brannelly suggested increasing the Raphola Taylor: Youth and Family Resources by \$3,000 for a total of to \$10,000.

Council President McCarthy suggested increasing Bridgeport Housing Authority: Marina Village From \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Council President McCarthy suggested increasing Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders from \$5,000 to \$27,000

Council Member Brannelly suggested increasing Downtown Cabaret from \$5,000 to \$5,999.00

Public Facilities

There was a discussion regarding the Upper East Side NRZ Plan. This would create an NRZ where there was not one before.

The discussion moved to a project for McLevy Green. It was decided that this would benefit the entire City.

Ms. Kabel said that the Health Corner Store Facade was to help upgrade the facade of two corner stores in tandem with increasing healthy food awareness and availability. This has been done in New Haven successfully, According to the Health Director, the East End is a food desert. Council Member DeJesus had several reservations regarding the program. He was concerned about the former program history and also the fact that he had just refurbished a storefront he owned. Discussion followed.

The discussion then moved to the \$25,000 allocations for the various NRZs. Council Member DeJesus asked for clarification regarding how the funding was parceled out for the various projects and how it was supervised.

Council Member DeJesus had concerns about the allocation for Town House Commons roof and gutters. He wished to know if it would be possible to do loan programs for the condo owners. Ms. Kabel explained that in order to do loans, the City would have to work with HUD. Discussion followed. Ms. Kabel said that with the decreasing rate of funding, that the City needs to think about different ways to handle these situations.

Council Member DeJesus suggested reducing the Health Department Corner Store Façade from \$40,000 to \$20,000.

The Committee agreed to reduce the Parks and Recreation Tree Planting Program from \$122,826 to \$121,826.

The Committee agreed to increase Raphola Taylor: Youth and Family Resources from \$0 to \$20,000.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND THE PY 40 FUNDING REQUESTS AND ALLOCATIONS FOR THE CDBG FUNDING AS DISCUSSED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY 40 FUNDING REQUESTS AND ALLOCATIONS FOR THE CDBG FUNDING AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED,**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Special Committee for CDBG Program
Special Meeting
July 2, 2014